

Well Done Daniel!

You don't have to know me very long to know that I love "action" movies like Star Wars; and, Marvel Comics movies; and, Mission Impossible! That kind of stuff! Those are the kind of books I love to read also— *thrillers; like Ted Dekker & Joel Rosenberg books!* That's probably why I became such a big fan of the Old Testament book of Daniel after I came to faith in Jesus as a Junior Higher! I remember sitting by the record player (do you all remember those?); and, listening over & over to a recording of the action highlights of the book of Daniel being dramatized! The lion's den! And, his 3 friends in the fiery furnace! I loved it! I couldn't imagine a more action-packed story. When I went off to Bible college I became fascinated with all the end-time prophecies in the book of Daniel. I remember evangelists preaching in chapel; and, using the book of Daniel to show us where we were on God's prophetic calendar. As I've gone deeper in God's word; and, matured in my faith, I've discovered another storyline that weaves through Daniel's book that was hardly broached in Sunday School; or, even in Bible college. It's the back story of the lion's den & the fiery furnace. It's the story of Daniel's faith in God; and, how he lived out his faith in one of the most wicked environments the world has ever known. Through Daniel's story, God shows us how to live a, "*well done,*

good & faithful servant" kind of life. Let me explain! In Matthew's gospel, chapter 25, we find one of Jesus' parables recorded, "*The Parable Of The Talents.*" In the parable, God is represented as a master who gives various talents to his servants; and, to those who use their talents faithfully, he says: "*Well done good & faithful servant.*" If you've ever read the book of Daniel, you know that, despite great pain & disappointment in his life, Daniel lived that kind of life—a "*Well done good & faithful servant*" kind of life! I long to live my life; and, I pray you long to live yours in such a way that you would hear those words someday when you stand before Jesus; and, give an account of your life: "*Well done good & faithful servant!*" It is my intent, over the next few posts, to show you how God helped Daniel respond to the everyday issues of life. Right from the start, God shows us how to respond when life isn't happy! Daniel's story begins, "*In the third year of the reign of Jehoiakim king of Judah, Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon came to Jerusalem and laid siege to it. The Lord handed Jehoiakim king of Judah over to him, along with some of the vessels from the house of God...*" (1:1-2). This is the result of God's judgment. All God's warnings to Israel, through the prophets, went unheeded; so, the Lord sent Nebuchadnezzar to lay siege against Jerusalem! This was God's Sovereign work— "*The Lord handed Jehoiakim... over...*"

A Story Birthed In Pain

No one would have made a movie out of the start of Daniel's life. His story is birthed in pain, suffering & separation! Nebuchadnezzar, the King of Babylon, was not a very nice man! History records him as one of the most brutal, powerful & ambitious kings the world has ever known! He was arrogant & ruthless! His strategy for assimilating a conquered foe was to remove young royalty, like Daniel, from their homes; usually, killing their parents right before their eyes! Daniel's world was flipped upside down. He was uprooted from his homeland; and, carried off to a middle eastern country he didn't know to learn a new culture & a new language. And, Daniel shows us how to live even when life doesn't have a happy ending. The rest of chapter 1 finds him determined to stay faithful to God. He refused to defile himself by the ungodly culture around him; and, God blessed him for his faithfulness! We'll dig into that in our next post!

"Greeting Team"

For Sunday, October 17

Remember: Meet in the coat room @ **10:30 am** for brief prayer & then go "welcome" people! NOTE: Keep an eye on the auditorium for those who slipped past!

Greeters this week:

Randy Ehlers Sunday Night;
Donna Ehlers Mon Morning

- 1st— Erickson Thursday PM;
Jen Hagler Thursday PM
- 2nd— Terry Embke Monday Night;
- 3rd—Randy Ehlers Sunday Night;
Donna Ehlers Monday Morning
- 4th—Curt Mastbergen Sunday Noon;
Tackett Sunday Night

Small Groups @ MBC

Meet A Minimum Of
2 Times A Month

-Guide To: Small Group Ministry
@ MBC

Announcements

1. Good Read? Voddie Baucham's "Fault Lines" —an alternate, Biblical view of Critical Race Theory
2. Signed Up For "RightNow Media"? Text "MBCHURCH" to 49775 to sign up!